

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)
)
Michael Brian Adams)
) Group Art Unit:
Serial No.)
) Examiner:
Filed: Herewith)
)
For MEDIA SERVER)
INTERCONNECT)
ARCHITECTURE)
)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Asst. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the accompanying application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please add the following new claims 19-22.

--19. A method for providing a selected media asset to one of a plurality of subscriber terminals that are in a communications network, the communications network including a plurality of media servers, each of the media servers having media assets associated therewith, and the communications network including a plurality of frequency modulators the method comprising the steps of

receiving a request for a particular media asset to be provided to one of the plurality of subscriber terminals;

selecting one of the plurality of media servers that has associated therewith the particular media asset;

supplying from the selected one of the plurality of media servers
a time division multiplexed signal that contains the particular media
asset;

15 selecting one of the plurality of frequency modulators that is in
communication with both the selected one of the plurality of media
servers and the one of the plurality of subscriber terminals;

supplying the time division multiplexed signal from the selected
one of the plurality of media servers to the selected one of the plurality
of frequency modulators;

20 commanding the selected one of the plurality of frequency
modulators to frequency modulate the particular media asset contained
in the time division multiplexed signal as a portion of a frequency
modulated signal;

25 transporting the frequency modulated signal from the selected
one of the plurality of frequency modulators to the one of the plurality
of subscriber terminals;

supplying the one of the plurality of subscriber terminals with
frequency and time slot information relating to a location of the
particular media asset in the frequency modulated signal; and

30 using the frequency and time slot information to extract the
requested media asset from the frequency modulated signal at the one of
the plurality of subscriber terminals.

20. The method of claim 19 including the steps of:

analyzing a load on each of the plurality of media servers that has
the particular media asset associated therewith; and

selecting a media server as a function of the analyzing step.

21. The method of claim 19 including the step of

combining the frequency modulated signal supplied by the selected
one of the plurality of modulators with frequency modulated signals from
others of the plurality of frequency modulators, to thereby form a
5 composite frequency modulated signal; and

transporting the composite frequency modulated signal to the one of
the plurality of subscriber terminals.

22. A method for interconnecting a plurality of video servers to a
plurality of video terminals, wherein a requesting video terminal requests
that a given video asset be distributed to said requesting video terminal,
said method comprising the steps of:

5 providing each of said video servers with a plurality of video assets,

providing a plurality of sets of modulators, each set of modulators
having a plurality of individual modulators;

providing that each individual modulator within a set of modulates at
a common frequency;

10 providing that each set of modulators modulates at a different
common frequency from other sets of modulators;

connecting each individual modulator within a set of modulators to a
common one of said video servers;

providing a connection manager for each of said video servers;

15 each of said connection managers being responsive to said request
from said requesting video terminal for distribution of said given video
asset;

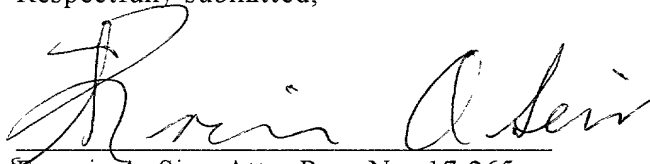
utilizing said connection managers to select a video server having
said given video asset as a source server to provide said given video asset
20 to said requesting video terminal;

selecting an individual modulator from a set of modulators that is
connected to said source server to thereby modulate said given video asset
for transmission to said requesting video terminal; and

providing a combiner for combining said video assets from said
25 sets of modulators for distribution to a group of video terminals that
includes said requesting video terminal.

Signed this 21 day of October 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



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